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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

May 21, 1998

Contact: The Montana Natural History Center at UM, (406) 243-6642.

UM CENTER OFFERS SUMMER SCIENCE CLASSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

MISSOULA--

Young people have no excuse for being bored this summer in Missoula. Building a rocket, studying real human bones and making a camera are just a few of the tasks they can undertake during Summer Science Discovery Program classes, which will be held from June 15 to Aug. 14 at The University of Montana.

Sponsored by the Montana Natural History Center, the classes are short science courses and workshops offering opportunity for interactive, hands-on learning. The classes are conducted by local scientists and naturalists with a passion for sharing their expertise with the next generation.

All classes will be held at UM, and a fee will be charged. For more information, contact the Montana Natural History Center at (406) 243-6642.

Following is the list of classes scheduled for 1998:

■ **Rocket Science!** June 15-19 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. in Science Complex Room 13. Students learn the physical principles of rocket propulsion and build and launch their own. Intended for ages 9-12, the class costs \$55 plus \$15 for materials.

■ **Investigating DNA,** June 15-19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Health Science Room 102. Students extract DNA from cells and study the coding of this amazing molecule. Intended for ages 9-12, the class costs \$55.

■ **WAHOO, Watersheds!** June 22-26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Honors College Room 120. Students explore the properties and functions of water with field trips to the Lee Metcalf Wildlife Refuge, local wetlands and Missoula's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Intended for ages 7-12, the class costs \$105.

■ **Art and Anatomy of Birds,** June 22-26 from 9:15 to 11 a.m. in Science Complex Room 230. Students draw and sculpt birds in the classroom with the aid of live models, learn about bird anatomy and study the creatures in the wild. Intended for ages 9-15, the course costs \$55 with an

optional \$10 sculpture firing charge.

■ **It's a Beautiful Light**, June 22-26 from noon to 2 p.m. in Science Complex Room 13.

Students build their own pinhole cameras, develop their own photographs and explore the physical properties of light. Intended for ages 8-11, the course costs \$55.

■ **Life in Ponds and Streams**, July 6-10 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Bancroft Pond and Lincolnwood Park. Students visit local streams and ponds, search for the aquatic insects and study aquatic ecosystems. Intended for ages 8-12, the course costs \$55.

■ **Living Wild in the City**, July 6-9 and Aug. 3-7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at MUD, 629 Phillips St. in Missoula. Students join the staff and friends of the Missoula Urban Demonstration Project to study topics like urban ecology, garden science and homestead cooking. Students will experiment with sun power, make knapweed paper, eat weed salads and build a worm box. The first camp is intended for ages 6-8 and the second camp for ages 9-12. The cost is \$120, and scholarships are available.

■ **Geologic Explorations of the Missoula Valley**, July 13-17 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in Science Complex Room 13. Students identify common rocks and minerals, learning how the Missoula valley was formed. Intended for ages 8-12, the course costs \$55.

■ **Peeled Oranges and the Story Behind Maps**, July 13-17 from noon to 2:30 p.m. in Science Complex Room 13. Students learn how to make a useful and accurate map while learning about compasses, global positioning technology and satellite imagery. Intended for ages 8-11, the course costs \$55.

■ **Exploring the Human Brain**, July 20-24 from 9 to 11 a.m. in Chemistry/Pharmacy Room 207. Students study the brain and dissect sheep brains to help learn about the central nervous system and how we see, hear and taste. Intended for girls ages 11-14, the course costs \$55.

■ **Science Photography**, July 27-31 from 9 a.m. to noon in Science Complex Room 13. Students learn to use photography to document and illustrate scientific results, while learning about film chemistry and development. Intended for ages 10-13, the course costs \$55.

■ **Forensics**, Aug. 3-7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Social Science Room 250. Students learn how scientific detective work can be used to interpret the scene of a crime, while studying real human bones, casts and animal remains. Intended for ages 10-13, the course costs \$55.

■ **Casting and Tracking**, Aug. 10-14 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Social Sciences Room 250. Students make casts of human, bear or wolf tracks, while studying tracks in the field and learning how animals interact with their environment. Intended for ages 9-12, the course costs \$55.

Established in 1991, the Montana Natural History Center is a non-profit organization that works to foster understanding, appreciation and conservation of natural systems through natural history education. The center hopes to build a community of people who understand and value the natural world and who integrate the natural world into their lives and decisions.

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